State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

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State Superintendent Burmaster speaks out for the economic futures of our students, families, and communities
Calls for firm resolve against the latest version of flawed TABOR plan

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster issued the following statement on the proposed Taxpayer Protection Amendment, which would change Wisconsin's Constitution to create a revenue limit restricting the amount of revenue state and local units of government can raise from taxes, fines, fees, and other sources.

"Future economic growth is a product of strong schools providing quality public education for all students. Ask any business owner, an educated workforce is the key to their company's economic prosperity. However, with our schools struggling through the 13th year of revenue caps, every year brings fiscal challenges that reach into each classroom and each student's education.

"Ask any parent or student, the years of cuts have hurt, with fewer courses, services, and higher fees. And ask any educator, the mandated services, testing, and expenses have increased, especially from the federal level, without an end in sight.

"So what does the latest version of TABOR—the "Taxpayer Protection Amendment"—tell our locally elected school leaders, our communities, our students, parents, and educators? Here is a second revenue cap that guarantees even more, deeper cuts to students' education. It guarantees locally elected school board members will have even less control and decision-making power—power that should be held by leaders closest to the classroom. And for Wisconsin's educational and economic future, it offers no guarantees, only hollow promises and false choices. Can Wisconsin truly afford to roll these dice?

"We must not gamble with our children's futures and our schools."

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